

## FIG

great talk; but that is ever good for the publick: but he that plots to be the only *figure* among cyphers, is the decay of a whole age.

As in accounts cyphers and *figures* pass for real fums, so in human affairs words pass for things themselves. *South's Sermon.*  
9. The horoscope; the diagram of the aspects of the astrological houses.

We do not know what's brought to pass under the profession of fortunetelling: the works by charms, by spells, by the *figure*, and dawning beyond our element. *Shakespeare.*

He set a *figure* to discover.  
If you were fled to Rye or Dover. *Hudibras*, p. iii. cant. 1.  
*Figure* flingers and star-gazers pretend to foretell the fortunes of kingdoms, and have no foresight in what concerns themselves. *L'Estrange*, *Fable* 94.

10. [In theology.] Type representative.

Who was the *figure* of him that is to come. *Romans.*  
11. [In rhetoric.] Any mode of speaking in which words are deformed from their literal and primitive sense. In strict acceptation, the change of a word is a *trope*, and any affection of a sentence a *figure*; but they are generally confounded by the exactest writers.

Silken terms precise,  
Three pil'd hyperboles, spruce affectation,  
*Figures* pedantical, these Summer flies  
Have blown me full of maggot ostentation. *Shakespeare.*  
Here is a strange *figure* invented against the plain and natural sense of the words; for by praying to bestow, must be understood only praying to pray. *Stillingfleet.*

They have been taught rhetoric, but yet never taught to express themselves in the language they are always to use; as if the names of the *figures* that embellished the discourse of those, who understood the art of speaking, were the very art and skill of speaking well. *Locke.*

12. [In grammar.] Any deviation from the rules of analogy or syntax.

To *FIGURE*. *v. a.* [*figure*, Latin.]

1. To form into any determinate shape.

Trees and herbs, in the growing forth of their boughs and branches, are not *figured*, and keep no order. *Bacon.*  
Accept this goblet, rough with *figur'd* gold. *Dryd. Virgil.*

2. To show by a corporeal resemblance: as in picture or statuary.

Arachne *figur'd* how Jove did abuse  
Europa like a bull, and on his back  
Her through the sea did bear; so lively seen,  
That it true sea, and true bull ye would ween. *Spenser.*

Now marks the course of rolling orbs on high,  
O'er *figur'd* worlds now travels with his eye. *Pope.*

3. To cover or adorn with figures.

I'll give my jewels for a set of beads,  
My gorgeous palace for a hermitage,  
My gay apparel for an almsman's gown,  
My *figur'd* goblets for a dish of wood. *Shakespeare. Richard II.*

4. To diversify; to variegate with adventitious forms or matter.

But this effusion of such manly drops,  
Startle mine eyes, and makes me more amaz'd  
Than had I seen the vaulty top of heav'n  
*Figur'd* quite o'er with burning meteors. *Shakespeare. K. John.*

5. To represent by a typical or figurative resemblance.

When sacraments are said to be visible signs of invisible grace, we thereby conceive how grace is indeed the very end for which these heavenly mysteries were instituted; and the matter whereof they consist is such as signifieth, *figureth*, and representeth their end. *Hooker*, b. v.

There is a history in all mens lives,  
*Figuring* the nature of the times deceased. *Shakespeare. Hen. IV.*

Marriage rings are not of this stuff:  
Oh! why should ought less precious or less tough  
*Figure* our loves? *Dante.*

The emperor appears as a rising sun, and holds a globe in his hand to *figure* out the earth that is enlightened and actuated by his beams. *Addison on ancient Medals.*

6. To image in the mind.

None that feels sensibly the decays of age, and his life wearing off, can *figure* to himself those imaginary charms in riches and praise, that men are apt to do in the warmth of their blood. *Temple.*

If love, alas! be pain, the pain I bear  
No thought can *figure*, and no tongue declare. *Prior.*

7. To prefigure; to foreshow.

Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun,  
In this the heaven *figures* some event. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

8. To form figuratively; to use in a sense not literal.

*Figured* and metaphorical expressions do well to illustrate more abstruse and unfamiliar ideas, which the mind is not yet thoroughly accustomed to. *Locke.*

FIGURE-FLINGER. *n. s.* [*figure* and *fling*] A pretender to astrology and prediction.

Quacks, *figure-flingers*, pettifoggers, and republican plotters cannot well live without it. *Collier of Confidence.*

## FIL

FILGWORT. *n. s.* [*fig* and *wort*.] A plant.

It hath an anomalous flower, consisting of one leaf, gaping at both sides, and generally globular, cut as it were into two lips, under the upper one of which are two small leaves. *Milt.*

FILACEOUS. *adj.* [*filum*, Latin.] Consisting of threads; composed of threads.

They make cables of the bark of lime-trees: it is the flax that maketh the *filaceous* matter commonly, and sometimes the down that groweth above. *Bacon's Natural History.*

FILACER. *n. s.* [*filaxarius*, low Lat. *filum*.] An officer in the Common Pleas, so called because he files those writs whereon he makes process. There are fourteen of them in their several divisions and counties: they make out all original process, as well real as personal and mixt. *Harris.*

FILAMENT. *n. s.* [*filament*, Fr. *filamenta*, Latin.] A slender thread; a body slender and long like a thread.

The effluvia passing out in a smaller thread, and more enlightened *filament*, it stirreth not the bodies interposed. *Bro.*

The lungs of consumptives have been consumed, nothing remaining but the ambient membrane, and a number of withered veins and *filaments*. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

The ever-rolling orb's impulsive ray  
On the next threads and *filaments* does bear,  
Which form the springy texture of the air  
And those fill strike the next, 'till to the light

The quick vibration propagates the light. *Blackm. Creation.*  
The dung of hories is nothing but the *filaments* of the hay, and as such combustible. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

FILBERT. *n. s.* [This is derived by *Junius* and *Skinner* from the long beards or hanks, as corrupted from *full beard*, or *full of beard*. It probably had its name, like many other fruits, from some one that introduced or cultivated it; and is therefore corrupted from *Filbert* or *Filibert*, the name of him who brought it hither.] A fine hazel nut with a thin shell.

In August comes fruit of all sorts; as plumbs, pears, apricots, barbaries, *filberts*, muskmelons, monkhoods of all colours. *Bacon, Essay* 47.

Thou hast a brain, such as it is indeed!  
On what else should thy worm of fancy feed?  
Yet in a *filbert* I have often known  
Maggots survive, when all the kernel's gone. *Dorset.*

There is also another kind, called the *filbert* of Constantinople; the leaves and fruit of which are bigger than either of the former; the best are those of a thin shell. *Mortimer.*

To FILCH. *v. a.* [A word of uncertain etymology. The French word *filer*, from which some derive it, is of very late production, and therefore cannot be its original.] To steal; to take by theft; to pilfer; to pilage; to rob; to take by robbery. It is usually spoken of petty thefts.

He shall find his wealth wonderfully enlarged by keeping his cattle in inclosures, where they shall always have late being, that none are continually *filched* and stolen. *Spenser.*

The champion robbeth by night,  
And prowlth and *filcheth* by daie. *Tusser's Husbandry.*

Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;  
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;  
But he that *filches* from me my good name,  
Robs me of that which not enriches him,  
And makes me poor indeed. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

His thefts were too open; his *filching* was like an unskillful finger, he kept no time. *Shakespeare. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

He could discern cities like hives of bees, wherein every bee did nought else but sting; some like hornets, some like *filching* wasps, others as drones. *Burton on Melancholy.*

What made thee venture to betray,  
And *filch* the lady's heart away. *Hudibras*, p. iii. cant. 1.

The pismire was formerly a husbandman, that secretly *filched* away his neighbour's goods. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

Fain would they *filch* that little food away,  
While unrestrain'd those happy gluttons prey.  
So speeds the wily fox, alarm'd by fear,  
Who lately *filch'd* the turkey's callow care. *Gay's Trivia.*

FILCHER. *n. s.* [*from filch*.] A thief; a petty robber.

FILE. *n. s.* [*file*, French; *filum*, a thread, Latin.]

1. A thread.

But let me resume the *file* of my relation, which this object of books, best agreeable to my course of life, hath a little interrupted. *Watson.*

2. A line on which papers are strung to keep them in order.

All records, wherein there was any memory of the king's attainder, should be cancelled and taken off the *file*. *Bacon.*

The petitions being thus prepared, do you continually set apart an hour in a day to peruse those, and then rank them into several files, according to the subject matters. *Bacon.*

Th' apothecary-train is wholly blind;  
From *files* a random recipe they take,  
And many deaths of one prescription make. *Dryden.*

3. A catalogue; roll; series.

Our present matters grow upon the *file*  
To five and twenty thousand men of choice. *Shakespeare. H. IV.*

The val'd *file*  
Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle. *Shakespeare. Macb.*

## FIL

4. A line of soldiers ranged one behind another.

Those goodly eyes,  
That o'er the *files* and musters of the war  
Have glow'd like plated Mars, now bend, now turn  
Upon a tawny front. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*

So saying, on he led his radiant *files*.  
Dazzling the moon. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. iv.

5. [peol, Saxon; *vijle*, Dutch.] An instrument to rub down prominences.

The rough or coarse-toothed *file*, if it be large, is called a rubber, and is to take off the unevenness of your work which the hammer made in the forging: the bastard-toothed *file* is to take out of your work the deep cuts, or file-strokes, the rough *file* made: the fine-toothed *file* is to take out the cuts, or file-strokes, the bastard *file* made; and the smooth *file* is to take out those cuts, or file-strokes, that the fine *file* made. *Moxon.*

Yet they had a *file* for the mattocks and for the coulters. *Sa. xiii. 21.*

The smiths and armourers on palestreys ride,  
*Files* in their hands and hammers at their side,  
And nails for loosen'd spears, and thongs for shields provide. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*

FILCUTTER. *s. n.* [*file* and *cutter*.] A maker of *files*.

Gad-stee! is a tough sort of steel: *filecutters* use it to make their chisels, with which they cut their *files*. *Moxon.*

To FILE. *v. a.* [*from filum*, a thread.]

1. To string upon a thread or wire. Whence to *file a bile* is to offer it in its order to the notice of the judge.

From the day his first bill was *filed* he began to collect reports. *Arbutnot and Pope's Mart. Scrib.*

2. [from peolan, Saxon.] To cut with a file.

They which would *file away* most from the largeness of that offer, do in more sparing terms acknowledge little less. *Hooker*, b. v. f. 27.

His humour is lofty, his discourse peremptory, his tongue *filed*, and his eye ambitious. *Shakespeare. Love's Labour's Lost.*

Let men be careful how they attempt to cure a blemish by *fil*ing or cutting off the head of such an overgrown tooth. *Ray.*

3. [from plan.] To soul; to fully; to pollute. This sense is retained in Scotland.

For Banquo's issue have I *fil'd* my mind,  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd. *Shakespeare.*

His weeds, divinely fashioned,  
All *fil'd* and mangl'd. *Chapman's Iliads*, b. xviii.

To FILE. *v. n.* [*from the noun*.] To march in a file, not abreast, but one behind another.

All ran down without order or ceremony, 'till we drew up in good order, and *filed* off. *Tatler*, N<sup>o</sup>. 86.

Did all the grosser atoms at the cell  
Of chance file off to form the pond'rous ball,  
And undetermin'd into order fall? *Blackmore's Creation.*

FLEMET. *n. s.* [corrupted from *feuille morte*, a dead leaf, French.] A brown or yellow-brown colour.

The colours you ought to wish for are blue or *flemet*, turned up with red. *Swift's Direct. to the Footman.*

FILER. *n. s.* [*from file*.] One who files; one who uses the file in cutting metals.

FILIAL. *adj.* [*filial*-is, French; *filius*, Latin.]

1. Pertaining to a son; befitting a son.

My mischievous proceeding may be the glory of his *filial* piety, the only reward now left for so great a merit. *Sidney.*

From imposition of strict laws, to free  
Acceptance of large grace; from fervile fear  
To *filial*; works of law, to works of faith. *Milt. Pa. Lost.*

He griev'd, he wept, the fight an image brought  
Of his own *filial* love; a sadly pleasing thought. *Dryden.*

2. Bearing the character or relation of a son.

And thus the *filial* godhead answering spoke. *Milt. P. L.*  
Where the old myrtle her good influence sheds,  
Sprigs of like leaf erect their *filial* heads;  
And when the parent rose decays and dies,  
With a resembling face the daughter buds arise. *Prior.*

FILIATION. *n. s.* [*from filius*, Latin.] The relation of a son to a father; correlative to paternity.

The relation of paternity and *filiation*, between the first and second person, and the relation between the sacred persons of the Trinity, and the denomination thereof, must needs be eternal, because the terms of relation between whom that relation ariseth were eternal. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

FILINGS. *n. s.* [without a singular; *from file*.] Fragments rubbed off by the action of the file.

The *filings* of iron infused in vinegar, will, with a decoction of galls, make good ink, without any copperose at all. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. vi. c. 12.

The chippings and *filings* of those jewels are of more value than the whole mass of ordinary authors. *Felton on the Clasp.*

To FILL. *v. n.* [*from fillan*, Saxon.]

1. To store 'till no more can be admitted.

Fill thine horn with oil. *1 Sa. xvi. 1.*  
Fill the waterpots with water, and they filled them up to the brim. *Jo. ii. 7.*

## FIL

The earth is *filled* with violence through them. *Gen. vi. 13.*

2. To store abundantly.

Be fruitful and multiply, and *fill* the waters in the seas. *Gen.*

3. To satisfy; to content.

Nothing but the supreme and absolute Infinite can adequately *fill* and super-abundantly satisfy the infinite desires of intelligent beings. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*

4. To glut; to surfeit.

Thou art going to lord Timon's feast.  
—Ay, to see meat *fill* knaves, and wine heat fools. *Shakespeare.*

5. To FILL out. To pour out liquor for drink.

6. To FILL out. To extend by something contained.

I only speak of him  
Whom pomp and greatness fits so loose about,  
That he wants majesty to *fill* them out. *Dryden.*

7. To FILL up. [Up is often used without much addition to the force of the verb.] To make full.

Hope leads from goal to goal,  
And opens still, and opens on his soul;  
'Till lengthen'd on to faith, and unconfin'd,  
It pours the bliss that *fills up* all the mind. *Pope's Essay on Man.*

8. To FILL up. To supply.

When the several trades and professions are supplied, you will find most of those that are proper for war absolutely necessary for *filling up* the laborious part of life, and carrying on the underwork of the nation. *Addison on the War.*

9. To FILL up. To occupy by bulk.

There would not be altogether so much water required for the land as for the sea, to raise them to an equal height; because mountains and hills would *fill up* part of that space upon the land, and so make less water requisite. *Burnet.*

10. To FILL up. To engage; to employ.

Is it far you ride?  
—As far, my lord, as will *fill up* the time  
'Twixt this and supper. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

To FILL. *v. n.*

1. To give to drink.

In the cup which the hath filled, *fill* to her double. *Rev. xviii.*  
We *fill* to th' general joy of the whole table,  
And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss. *Shakespeare. Macb.*

2. To grow full.

Things that are sweet and fat are more *filling*, and do swim and hang more about the mouth of the stomach, and go not down so speedily. *Bacon's Natural History.*

3. To glut; to satiate.

Neither the Palus Meotis nor the Euxine, nor any other seas, *fill up*, or by degrees grow shallower. *Woodward.*

4. To FILL up. To grow full.

The first stage of healing, or the discharge of matter, is by surgeons called digestion; the second, or the *filling up* with flesh, incarnation; and the last, or skinning over, cicatrization. *Sharp's Surgery.*

FILL. *n. s.* [*from the verb*.]

1. As much as may produce complete satisfaction.

Her neck and breasts were ever open bare,  
That aye thereof her babes might suck their *fill*. *Fairy Qu.*

But thus inflam'd bespoke the captain,  
Who corneth peace shall have his *fill* of war. *Fairfax*, b. ii.

When ye were thirsty, did I not cleave the rock, and waters flowed out to your *fill*? *2 Esd. i. 20.*

Mean while enjoy  
Your *fill*, what happiness this happy state  
Can comprehend, incapable of more. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

Amid' the tree now got, where plenty hung  
Tempting to nigh, to pluck and eat my *fill*  
I par'd not. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. ix.

Which made me gently first remove your fears,  
That so you might have room to entertain  
Your *fill* of joy. *Denham's Sophy.*

Your barbarity, which I have heard so long exclaimed against in town and country, may have its *fill* of destruction. *Pope.*

2. [More properly *thill*.] The place between the shafts of a carriage.

This mule being put in the *fill* of a cart, run away with the cart and timber. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

FILLER. *n. s.* [*from fill*.]

1. Any thing that fills up room without use.

'Tis a meer *filler*, to stop a vacancy in the hexameter, and connect the preface to the work of Virgil. *Dryd. En. Ded.*

A mixture of tender gentle thoughts and suitable expressions, of forced and inextricable conceits, and of needless *fillers* up to the rest. *Pope.*

2. One whose employment is to fill vessels of carriage.

They commonly have three, four, five or six hewers or diggers to four *fillers*, being proportioned so as to keep the *fillers* always at work. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

FILLET. *n. s.* [*filet*, French; *filum*, Latin.]

1. A band tied round the head or other part.

His baleful breath inspiring, as he glides,  
Now like a chain around her neck, he rides; *Now*